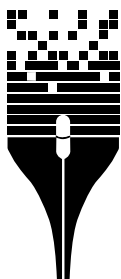


The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“The Russian bear has been replaced by a thousand vipers.”

- U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer

Culture of scandal spreads downstate

From The Region ... to the Statehouse

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

In a classic example of the law of unintended consequences, hours after California’s Neverland Ranch was raided and Michael Jackson was arrested on child molestation charges, CNN was using B-roll of Gary Mayor Scott King giving the “King of Pop” the keys to the Steel City.

Who would have guessed that just a few weeks later on Dec. 8 the feds would be sweeping through King’s office at City Hall, and those of Gary power broker Jewell G. Harris? Federal agents scooped up files from eight city and school offices. *Post-Tribune* reporter Steve Patterson observed, “Some called it a shotgun-style fishing expedition. But others said Monday’s blitz was the kickoff to a sweeping public corruption investigation across all facets of government in Gary.”

It signaled a new chapter in the Lake County corruption saga which had already snagged former Indiana Democratic Chairman Peter Manous, the son of East Chicago Mayor Bob Pastrick, and six East Chicago councilmen and city administrators, and Sen. Sam Smith. The *Post-Tribune* reported that Dimitrios Szalis was prepared to follow the footsteps of Gary Nannenga and turn state’s evidence in the East Chicago sidewalk scandal.

This week, the Lake County contagion seemed to be spreading to the Statehouse. In the first spate of dueling press conferences in the 2004 governor’s race, Gov. Joe Kernan announced that former U.S. Marshal Michael Carrington will lead an independent review of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles’ fraud detection procedures.

Two hours earlier, Republican Mitch Daniels spoke of

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GALLUP PUTS BUSH APPROVAL AT 63%: A USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll of 1,000 adults, conducted December 15-16, 2003 (+/- 3%) found: 63% approve of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president; 34% disapprove, 3% had no opinion.

FORMER ILLINOIS GOVERNOR INDICTED: Former Illinois Gov. George Ryan, who gained a worldwide reputation as a critic of the death penalty, was indicted Wednesday on charges of taking payoffs in a corruption scandal that shadowed his entire four years in office and cut short his political career (Associated Press). Prosecutors said the 69-year-old Republican and his family took cash, gifts, vacations and other favors to steer state business to friends and associates while he was governor and, before that, Illinois secretary of state. "Basically the state of Illinois was for sale," U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald said.

BAUER CALLS FOR EARLY END OF 2004 SESSION: When lawmakers returned to the Statehouse last month to deal with skyrocketing property tax bills, their legislative paychecks got bigger (Indianapolis Star). But the unusual three-week mini-session -- and the time legislators spent at the

the "the chaos and now, apparently, the criminality at the BMV is just symptomatic of dysfunctional state government in general."

The growing BMV scandal involving identity fraud is a loaded political gun, coming in the post-Sept. 11 environment. It has, according to Gov. Kernan, who headed Indiana's anti-terrorism task force, roots in Lake County where foreigners were coming from Chicago to get forged Indiana driver's licenses, a situation that drew concerns 18 months ago.

If it has a familiar ring to it, the BMV scandal was a reminder of a key agency that got caught up in the last major change of the guard in Indiana government. A scandal involving the Mishawaka license branch and the use of pilfered money to buy a GOP manager a race horse became the symbolic issue of Democratic gubernatorial challenger Evan Bayh in 1988, who used it to make the case that Lt. Gov. John Mutz and Hoosier Republicans in their 20th consecutive year of power needed to be flushed. It worked.

And numerous sources tell *HPR* that BMV may only be the sideshow to the continued investigation at the sprawling Indiana Family Social Services Administration.

Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi told *HPR* that his "non-partisan" staff and police investigators are only in the early stages of the FSSA probe. And he called the BMV case one of national scope with "the magnitude of this staggering."

It prompted Marion County Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy to accuse Brizzi of becoming a "political" prosecutor, citing the FSSA probe and Brizzi's comments during the Fort Wayne mayoral race that Democrat Graham Richard might be involved. Treacy raised the specter of the party trying to woo Indiana Democratic Chairman Joe Hogsett into a challenge of Brizzi three years hence.

State Rep. Luke Messer, executive

director for the Indiana Republican Party, noted the irony of Treacy seeking a state party chairman to replace the Republican "political prosecutor."

Clearly, battle lines are being drawn as Indiana's horizons appear to become snarled in the politics of corruption.

GOP, Daniels move in

Tuesday became the day that Daniels and Kernan first clashed in the 2004 gubernatorial race.

At 12:47 p.m., Indiana Republican Chairman Jim Kittle Jr. released a 24-page document, *Joe Kernan's Legacy of Neglect*, that chronicles the scandals and failures of state government during Kernan's tenure, first as lieutenant governor and then as governor. "This publication provides a resource for anyone seeking factual information about the mismanagement of our great state.," Kittle said as he distributed 8,000 copies. "As Kernan himself suggested, when folks run down this state, they need to be taken to task."

"Unfortunately for Hoosiers, the stories outlined in Joe Kernan's *Legacy of Neglect* actually happened and were reported by Indiana media outlets," Kittle said. "And now it's time Indiana's citizens take Gov. Kernan to task for continually diminishing the efficiency and quality of state government."

The Daniels campaign announced a "major policy announcement" shortly after 2 p.m. Tuesday for 10:30 Wednesday morning. That major policy called for "transparency" in state contracting processes (*See Ticker Tape*).

At 9:40 a.m. Wednesday, less than an hour before Daniels' press conference, Kernan's office said the governor would "make announcement on BMV fraud detection efforts."

Reporters picked up the scent of the Kernan administration beginning to erect a line of defense. Most of the questions from the press corps to Daniels didn't deal with procurement, but BMV.

"We've seen it all across the

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board," Daniels said of the variety of scandals that have hit the O'Bannon-Kernan administration in BMV, FSSA and PERF. "You can make the case that 16 years is too long. These agencies need to be managed better and give more honest service to Hoosiers."

Daniels promised to start his "cleanup" of state government at BMV. "I wish this was an isolated incident, but now we've got a very long pattern and it's going to get longer."

As for FSSA, Daniels said, "No one thinks we've seen all the problems yet."

Kittle, who has made winning the governorship in 2004 his top priority and will be in a precarious position if Daniels loses, is being viewed by Democrats as the attack dog in the campaign.

He was clearly in that mode this week. "The Kernan administration is so scandal-plagued, we needed a place to quickly update the material," said Kittle. "In fact, this booklet went to print just two weeks ago, and it's already out of date. Since then, the scope of the fraud at the BMV has expanded ten-fold."

Kernan seeks containment

After Kernan's stunning Dec. 9, 2002, announcement that he wouldn't seek his own term in 2004, many speculated that Kernan didn't want to "play defense" on the problems coming from the O'Bannon administration. With Frank O'Bannon's death and his ascension to office, Gov. Kernan's staff this fall tamped down any notion of that being the case.

But the reality is that since Gov. Kernan's first month in office, he has made moves to try to keep his administration and re-election effort off its heels. He quickly scuttled O'Bannon's 11th-hour appointment of Pat Rios to head FSSA, and brought in former FSSA administrator Cheryl Sullivan, a move that was seen as proactive and applauded across party lines.

On Wednesday, Gov. Kernan was

again seeking a proactive, damage control mode, bringing in the former Marshal Carrington to conduct an exhaustive review of BMV.

"Across the nation, states are facing an evolving threat of people trying to pass off fabricated passports, citizenship records and Social Security cards as the real thing," Kernan said. "We're doing something about it." He said that Carrington would be a state employee who "will report directly to me."

Nightmares

The type of scandals involving FSSA and BMV are the kind of things that can cause a mayor, governor or president to lie awake at night, wondering ... which small fry employee at the bottom of the foodchain can embroil an administration in the specter of corruption?

Could a John Hamilton or Cheryl Sullivan ever be able to fully account for every action of every employee at the 10,000 employee FSSA? Could Commissioner Coleman fully account for the actions of the 1,600-man BMV? Are background checks ever going to tell the real story when most former employers will only say an employee left in good standing (or face civil liability)?

Should there be a General Accounting Office investigative wing in state government that can conduct random audits? Indiana's State Board of Accounts is chronically overloaded.

And, in the worst case scenario, what would be the fallout if the next Al Qaeda terror pilot possessed an Indiana drivers license from Speedway?

Gov. Kernan, ever publicly loyal to O'Bannon, must shoulder the legacy, though the public may never know the full extent of his role in shaping the public policy that came into play this week.

As for Daniels and the GOP, as it was in 1988, scandals are fair game in a gubernatorial election year.

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Statehouse -- may not end up costing taxpayers any extra money in the long run. In exchange for getting an early start on the short session, which normally begins in January, House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer said, he wants to end the session before the March 14 deadline imposed by law. "We'll break even," said Bauer, D-South Bend.

DANIELS ANNOUNCES PROCUREMENT POLICY: Republican gubernatorial candidate Mitch Daniels on Wednesday touted a program that would make it a priority for Indiana companies to receive state contracts for goods and services (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Daniels believes too many Hoosier tax dollars are being spent out of state - saying at least 15 percent of the professional services Indiana acquires and 40 percent of the goods purchased are from out-of-state companies. "This is one more area where we've been out-competed and out-managed by other states," he said. "Nobody's minding the store." Daniels' initiative - "Buy Indiana" - aims to increase in-state procurement to 90 percent largely through an executive order creating the presumption that all state contracts go to Indiana firms unless a specific waiver is granted. The former White House budget

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director also would allow Indiana firms to win contracts with bids up to 5 percent higher than others; and require prospective vendors and contractors to disclose where their products are manufactured and the names and residences of all workers it intends to employ on the project. "If you want to be considered an Indiana firm, be a real one," he said. "A storefront marketing operation is not enough. Hire Hoosiers so the tax dollars recirculate here."

JUSTICES UPHOLD GUBERNATORIAL VETOES: Noting that common sense has always driven the state's constitution, the Indiana Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to penalize former Gov. Frank O'Bannon for being too efficient when vetoing proposed laws (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The 4-0 decision leaves intact the 2001 veto of a bill prohibiting nursing home reimbursement cuts, as well as dozens of other laws vetoed in a similar manner since 1981. "If there is any irregularity, it is not a matter the courts have any business entertaining because any departure from prescribed procedure was wholly trivial and provides no basis to invalidate the governor's veto," Justice Theodore Boehm wrote in the decision. The ruling reverses an August decision by the

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A tyrant is captured, but vipers remain

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar stood before 500 high school students at the University of Indianapolis Saturday morning, talking about the prospects of community service. "None of you may know, precisely, when the call will come," he said.

On the other side of the planet, Operation Red Dawn was already under way near the Iraqi village of Adwar. That call to public service had gone to the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team. And when the dust settled, tyrant Saddam Hussein had been found cowering in a hole with a pistol that he failed to use on himself, and \$750,000 in U.S. cash, looking like a bus station vagrant.

Lugar, who heads the Senate Foreign Relations Committee would comment on Sunday, "I had no idea it was going to happen today, but we have all known that our intelligence was getting better and that Iraqis were being more forthcoming. There had been rumors throughout the week that the circle was closing, but to still find the place, the hole, and the man there at that time was remarkable. Today's capture is a tremendous victory for the American people, for our president, for our troops, for General Sanchez and for the Iraqis, who have some hope now of proceeding to form a government."

U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, the Monticello Republican who represents the west side of Indianapolis, called it a "defining moment" in the Iraq war. "It sucks air out of the hope of the insurgents that Saddam Hussein will rise back to power. I loved the symbolism of him crawling out of that rat hole. He spent a great deal of money to build this image of mythical proportions. This cowardly surrender will keep him from becoming a martyr."

U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh was buoyed by the news of Saddam's capture, saying, "While this represents the close of a sig-

nificant chapter in our efforts to build a secure Iraq, it does not ensure the country's future success. We still have a long, extensive and dangerous road ahead of us, and we should not delude ourselves in any way that would slow or end the process to stabilizing Iraq and win the fight for freedom."

The capture of Saddam came at a critical point for the United States. In a bloody November, 79 American soldiers were killed. American troops were wrapping Iraqi villages in barbed wire and conducting maneuvers some observers believed would alienate the population. In a *Newsweek* article, former Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich said U.S. policy was going "off the cliff."

Lugar urged patience. "I'm not certain that I understand Speaker Gingrich's advice on these issues," Lugar said. "I listened carefully, but I don't think he offered anything that was particularly useful."

Lugar defended the barbed wire maneuvers in his Saturday interview, unaware of the mission to capture the despot. "If you were an American service person there now and there was ammunition in some of the houses in a neighborhood and the potential for some Sunni Fedayeen Saddam power felt, you're going to be very cautious," Lugar explained. "It's not a hearts-and-minds evolution at that particular point. It is a search-and-find to eliminate the armament and to try and discover the identity of the people who are using the cover in some of these neighborhoods. We are fighting an intelligence war now against individual people, frequently."

Lugar said that with Sunday's capture, "the sentiment some Americans have that the effort in Iraq is not worth it will subside. It won't go away all together. There will always be people who will ask, 'Why in the world are we worried about Saddam? Repression? Nuclear weapons? Chemical Weapons? Instability

in the Middle East?' But the majority of Americans do understand that we are at risk. September 11th established that."

Buyer reminded people that since Saddam's regime was toppled, 41 mass graves containing 400,000 corpses have been discovered. "To put that in perspective, go to the Indianapolis 500 and look at all those people, and then think of twice the number," Buyer said. "That's how many people Saddam killed. It begins to put it in perspective."

Bayh, a Democrat up for re-election in 2004, said, "We'll need to stay the course, and not just remove the yoke of Saddam Hussein, but ensure that that yoke is not replaced by another. We must make sure that the country does not become a hotbed for terrorism and instability that would eventually harm the United States and our people."

And while Saddam has been captured, Al Qaeda's Osama bin Laden is still loose and many American leaders fear the specter of a domestic terror attack here. "It's a fear I have," Buyer said, "Making an attack during an election year."

While most presidential elections don't turn on foreign events, he pointed to Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini who kept 50 Americans hostage to embarrass President Jimmy Carter during his 1980 re-election campaign. Carter lost and the day he left

the White House, the hostages were freed to President Reagan.

Lugar was asked if he worried about future suicide bombings in the United States. "Yes, I do worry about suicide bombings. It's a new phenomenon. We always thought we had a deterrent, a nation-state deterrent. They could always count on us hitting you. That kept the Soviet Union at bay for about 50 years. With suicide bombers, they are not deterred. With their theological background or motivation, they are prepared to take their lives and a lot of others for whatever the cause may be.

"The question there is to limit the armament they have or their ability to create massive destruction," Lugar said. "Recognizing folks may be in harms way and we have no idea where they may be."

Buyer ruefully observed, "This isn't the century we expected." His comment captured the thoughts many of us had when Dec. 31, 1999 ticked away from the bloodiest century in the history of mankind — and one where we were protected by two oceans — to Jan. 1, 2000 and the notions of a greater peace that have given away to the specter of asymmetrical warfare and terror. "The Russian bear has been replaced by a thousand vipers," said Buyer. ❖

Lugar 'optimistic' on Iraq reconstruction

HPR's Brian A. Howey conducted this *HPR Interview* with U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar last Saturday morning at the University of Indianapolis:

HPR: A year ago, you were questioning the American preparedness for a post-war Iraq, and much of that has been borne out. How do you see things now?

Lugar: It's been my contention and it's not original but we were not well prepared the day after hostilities would end. They ended fairly

abruptly and surprisingly for our military. There was a gap of a lack of government and those who were involved were not able to get to Iraq. That was then and this is now. Refighting that situation may be useful historically, but not helpful to people now serving there. Ambassador Bremer and the group now managing the situation are doing a good job. They admit mistakes as they come along and they make readjustments. One of these is to incorporate many more Iraqi army people and

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Indiana Court of Appeals that found O'Bannon delivered the veto too soon. The Indiana Constitution says if vetoes are issued after the General Assembly adjourns a session, the bill must be returned to the house of origin on the first day lawmakers reconvene - usually in November. In this case, the veto was returned to the House several days later on May 11 instead of the next time the legislature reconvened Nov. 20. At least 81 vetoes under three governors were similarly returned early.

KERNAN REACTS: "This vindicates the position taken by Indiana governors for more than 20 years, both Republicans and Democrats," said Gov. Joe Kernan. "It's a good, correct, common-sense decision."

NO CHARGES IN VANDERBURGH VOTE FRAUD: A Vanderburgh County grand jury finished its inquiry Wednesday into alleged election irregularities and returned no indictments against two targets of its investigation (Evansville Courier & Press). Neither of the targets was Democratic Precinct Committeeman Donald Mosby, identified in October by city police as the subject of a probe into reported absentee balloting violations leading up to November's city election. "I

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didn't do anything wrong. That's what I said all along," Mosby said after the grand jury session. Mosby, uncle of County Commissioner David Mosby, said he planned no action over the police investigation. "It's all over with. It's a good Christmas present, getting my name out of there where it shouldn't have been in the first place."

HORSEMAN LOSES INDIANAPOLIS COUNCIL SEAT:

Democratic City-County Council incumbent Karen Horseman lost her re-election effort by five votes, a court-appointed recount commission ruled Wednesday (Indianapolis Star). If the commission's ruling holds, Republican Scott Keller will win the Eastside's District 16 with 1,408 votes to Horseman's 1403. A lawyer representing Horseman, an at-large member of the council, said she was inclined to appeal the commission's decision within the next 30 days.

ALCOHOL ROAD DEATHS FALL 70 PERCENT: The rate of accidents involving alcohol that resulted in a death on Indiana's roads has fallen by about 70 percent in the last 20 years, according to a federal report released Wednesday (Associated Press). The report from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows alcohol-related fatali-

those who may be helpful to intelligence to try and defeat the insurgents, who are shooting not only American soldiers, but brave Iraqis who are trying to practice democracy. And the objective of the insurgents is to make sure that neither prevail. We now have a much better alliance with a lot of Iraqis, who demonstrated against terrorism this week, understanding that they are at risk in addition to American military. In due course, we will receive international support. For those who blandly say we ought to internationalize it now, the U.N. wants no part of Iraq after Mr. DiMelo was shot and 17 others. They're out of there. Likewise the Red Cross. The Iraqi insurgents by killing seven Spaniards, by shooting Italians, going after the Poles are really trying to drive off the last of the allies the United States has. But these countries have been strong in their resolve. I am optimistic that we are on the path to the building a government of Iraqis. That is a timetable that is very hard to foresee at this moment.

HPR: *Newsweek* reported that bin Laden has moved his resources from Afghanistan to Iraq. Is that a concern?

Lugar: It's an interesting development to watch what the Al Qaeda people who are in Iran do. I think we can watch them. Iranians have been keeping an eye on them. In some of our briefings, there's a pretty good idea of how many of them there are. If they come over, they will not come over totally unobserved. The real danger is that Osama bin Laden is no longer in a position to direct traffic. There are indigenous Al Qaeda cells that have their own self-governance and their own agendas. Now their objectives may be more modest than their attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. But nonetheless very capable of suicide missions against hotels, multi-nationals and that kind of sporadic violence.

HPR: What is your advice to Hoosiers as to what they should be looking for to judge the Bush administration in

2004 and a critical election?

Lugar: There are two broad areas. Hoosiers will be looking at the economy and whether there is a recovery, which apparently is underway. They'll look for the growth of the economy; the growth of new jobs; new exports abroad and whether these things materialize. My guess is the economy will strengthen. In the background of this will be the evolution of the Iraq situation and likewise whether we are prepared for whatever may happen in North Korea, in Iran, developments in South America that are less observed but still very, very important. I'm not predicting disasters. This is a time of alert. There are real problems with people who do not wish us well.

HPR: Howard Dean is drawing the sharpest contrast to President Bush. You observations on Mr. Dean?

Lugar: Gov. Dean tried to touch upon the anxieties and the even the very strong dislike on the part of many Democrats for President Bush and for war in general and the Iraq war in particular. He plugged into a strong trend at many Democratic rallies. It occurs to me now that Dean, having reasonable leads in New Hampshire and possibly in Iowa and elsewhere and with the endorsement of former Vice President Al Gore, he is, while not doubling back, is consulting with my friend Joe Biden. He's asked Joe and others "How do I formulate a response to American foreign policy?" If you're commander-in-chief there are other places than Iraq. What about NATO? What about this hemisphere? Now Gov. Dean is visiting with members of Congress trying to indicate he knows about these things; that being a parochial governor is not the extent of his experience. Whether he will be successful or not, I don't know. Some are suggesting he form an alliance with Gen. Clark to be his running mate; to have someone who could command troops and who did so. It's an interesting pairing in which you bring together both of these strains. ❖

Bayh may be the most anti-Dean on Iraq

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - As Howard Dean's rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination strive this week to define themselves as the anti-Dean candidate in the wake of the capture of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, a Hoosier Democrat who is not running is emerging at perhaps the furthest opposite pole from the former Vermont governor.

Since U.S. troops apprehended Hussein last weekend, U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh has reiterated in strong language his support for the war. "The sacrifices our military is making in this overall effort probably represent one of the most noble causes that our country has been involved in," he said. "We should be proud of liberating the 26 million people in Iraq and should remember that this is why it is important to stick it out to its successful conclusion."

Bayh's rhetoric contrasts starkly with Dean's. In a major speech on Monday, Dean sought to outline a centrist approach to foreign policy. But he did not back down from his strident opposition to the Iraq war, a stance that has helped make him the front runner for the Democratic nomination. Dean said, "[T]he capture of Saddam Hussein has not made America safer."

Asked in an *HPR* interview on Wednesday whether he believes the capture of Saddam makes America safer, Bayh responded, "I do. Absolutely. We were forced to go to war before because of this man's megalomania. There's no doubt that it's good that Saddam Hussein is gone."

Bayh said he has been busy during the congressional recess and hadn't had a chance to hear or read Dean's speech. But he did say that the eventual Democratic standard bearer must project a confident ease with making tough national security decisions. "Whoever our nominee is has

to be a credible potential commander in chief," said Bayh, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee. "They need to demonstrate they will not just sit back while the forces of evil gather around us. In a dangerous world, although it's regrettable, the use of force is sometimes necessary." Going a step further in an interview in the Dec. 15 edition of *The Weekly Standard*, a conservative magazine, Bayh said, "We need to be much more pro-active on eliminating threats before they're imminent."

Bayh said Dean has the capacity to meet the commander-in-chief standard. "I think he can. It's a question of what policies he intends to embrace."

Although he governed Vermont as a moderate, Dean has embraced policies that appeal to his party's liberal core during the primary race. One political analyst believes Democrats are likely to stay left in the fall, possibly creating an opening for Bayh in 2008.

Larry Sabato, professor of political science at the University of Virginia, said Democrats have moved left since they lost the 2000 election. "They decided, incorrectly I believe, they weren't liberal enough. It's very likely the Democratic Party will return to the Mondale/Dukakis mode in 2004," Sabato said. "If they lose, especially if they lose badly, moderates will come to the fore again in '08."

And that has led to speculation that the race in 2008 could involve Bayh, New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and former Vice President Al Gore. "A lot of people are talking about it," said Sabato. "I've heard it everywhere. I just got back from New Hampshire." He said Bayh fits the profile. "He is an incredibly attractive candidate who could win. He's one of the few Democrats out there who could bring a red state into the blue fold" and maybe carry a Midwestern neighbor like Ohio along with it. ❖

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ties in the state dropped from 1.29 deaths in 1982 for every 100 million miles driven to 0.37 last year. "Indiana has really experienced some good numbers," said Jerry McCory, director of the Governor's Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving. "The nation has seen an increase over the last three-year period, and I'm glad that Indiana is an exception."

BIGGS MAY HAVE MISSED FILING DEADLINE:

Pam Buhman, secretary of the Porter County Republicans, said her fax machine's time stamp shows a late filing in the contest for the county's Republican Party chairmanship (Post-Tribune). That stamp could make the race for Porter County Republican chairman a two-way race instead of a three-way race. The contest for the Republican chairmanship took a strange turn on Wednesday when former Commissioner Jim Biggs filed for the seat — allegedly half an hour after the 10 a.m. Wednesday deadline. Candidates who filed on time were acting Chairman Tammy Kueck, also the GOP vice chairwoman, and Keith Hall, a Porter Township precinct committeeman. Internal party rules, allowed by the Indiana Republican State Committee, dictate that candidates for any seat decided by a caucus must

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file a declaration with the party secretary 72 hours before the caucus. Buhman said the deadline was made clear in mailings and media releases announcing the 10 a.m. Saturday caucus in the commissioners' room of the Porter County Administration Center. Biggs said on Monday he was still deciding whether to run. Buhman said he phoned her at about 9:40 a.m. Wednesday to tell her he would run. But his fax didn't come right away, Buhman said. That left Kueck and Buhman scrambling to talk to officials in Indianapolis about allowing the candidacy or barring Biggs from running.

HINER NAMED GOP CHIEF OF STAFF IN HOUSE: House Republican Leader Brian Bosma has named Leslie Hiner as the new Chief of Staff to the Republican Caucus of the Indiana House of Representatives. Leslie has served the Caucus as the Policy Director and Caucus Attorney since 2000 and as an attorney during legislative sessions from 1997 to 2000. Leslie begins her duties as Chief of Staff immediately and will oversee staff, policy, legislation, and legal matters. Bosma's appointment of Hiner marks the first time a female has been named Chief of Staff in either House Caucus. "Leslie Hiner has served our caucus exceptionally well in her prior positions throughout her years at the House. She is extremely qualified,

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Peter Ciancone, *Terre Haute*

Tribune-Star - Sen. Dick Lugar, R-Ind., visited Terre Haute on Thursday to speak at a couple of venues. The Spectator caught up with him on the Rose-Hulman campus in the magnificent Hatfield Hall. Lugar's comments about foreign policy ought to make everybody sit up and pay attention. He described a collection of convoluted international issues with the fluency of a genuine expert. His grasp of the complexity makes even the precocious among us feel they ought to read up some more. Oh, yes. He spoke without notes. ❖

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* -

Political strategists in Washington and members of the national news media who report on presidential politics are all abuzz about this new way of looking at how to win the White House. The theory used to be that the way to victory was to convince voters in the middle ground, the so-called independents, that your nominee was the better choice, the one more likely to follow a moderate, sensible, middle-of-the-road course rather than swerve to the liberal left or conservative right. Thus, there developed the usual strategy: The Republican nominee sounded pretty right-wing in order to win the GOP primaries. The Democratic nominee sounded pretty left-wing in order to win that party's primaries. Both then raced for the middle, with less partisan rhetoric, in order to win that decisive middle ground in the fall election. Various formulas were cited. Some calculated that the electorate was about 40 percent Republican, 40 percent Democratic, with 20 percent in that independent or undecided group that each side would concentrate on swaying. Now, the new theory. It's based on the polarization of America and the belief that most of the people who actually will vote are already in the Democratic camp or the Republican

camp, that the percentage of potential voters in the middle has been shrinking, down to maybe 7 percent, so small that it's no longer worth all the previous attention. The way to win, in this theory, is to stir up your base, which will mean demonizing the other side in your TV spots and rhetoric, and concentrate on getting your loyalists to the polls. If this turns off independents, so be it. They don't count for as much any more. And if you don't sway as much split-ticket support, so be it. Split-ticket voting has been down in recent national voting. David Brooks, the New York Times conservative columnist, says strategists advocating this new theory see a Democratic liberal mountain and a Republican conservative mountain, with not much of a valley in between; thus, forget the valley and "play to the people on your own mountain and get them so excited they show up at the polls." Haven't we already seen this? ❖

Gary Gerard, *Warsaw Times-Union* -

The W administration has disappointed me yet again. Boy, it's getting tougher and tougher to be a conservative these days. I'm for lower taxes and smaller government, but this administration, while doing OK on the tax side, is really starting to freak me out when it comes to spending. Smaller government? Au contraire. First we got Homeland Security, an enormous expansion of government. Now we get the Medicare prescription drug benefit, an enormous entitlement. And this when we are looking at a single-year deficit of \$500 million next year. I just don't get it. Well, I take that back. I do get it and that's what bothers me. On the face of it, the administration would have us believe they are out to help people with this prescription drug benefit. But I think it's more about looking good to senior citizens and winning votes than it is about helping people. ❖

Help pick the HPR 50 Most Influential List

Dear HPR Subscriber:

Who should be on the 2004 HPR 50 Most Influential list?

How about Northern District Attorney Joseph Von Bokkelen?

Or Bernie Toon? Mark Lubbers? Sen. Becky Skillman?

It's time to make your submissions for the *2004 HPR 50 Most Influential List*. Ponder the 2003 list (and other years going back to 1999 at www.howeypolitics.com) and make your additions, subtractions and reordering. Send me your thoughts, or even your own complete list to:

brianhowey@howeypolitics.com.

It will be published in the Jan. 8 edition of HPR and a January edition of *The Indianapolis Eye* magazine. Cheers!

2003 HPR Most Influential List

1. Sen. Richard Lugar
2. OMB Director Mitch Daniels
3. U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh
4. State Sen. Larry Borst
5. Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton
6. House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer
7. Gov. Frank O'Bannon
8. GOP Chairman Jim Kittle
9. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence
10. Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson
11. State Sen. Vi Simpson
12. Joe Andrew
13. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer
14. Ambassador James Morris
15. Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan
16. Democratic Chairman Peter Manous
17. Ways and Means Chairman William Crawford
18. Marty Morris
19. Kevin Brinegar
20. Pat Kiely
21. Dan Clark
22. U.S. Rep. Julia Carson
23. U.S. Rep. Dan Burton
24. Ambassador Dan Coats
25. House Majority Leader Russ Stilwell

26. Ken Zeller
27. Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard
28. Evansville Mayor Russell Lloyd Jr.
29. U.S. Rep. Mark Souder
30. Lee Hamilton
31. State Sen. Murray Clark
32. David McIntosh
33. Eric Miller
34. House Minority Leader Brian Bosma
35. Supt. Suellen Reed
36. U.S. Rep. Baron Hill
37. Secretary of State Todd Rokita
38. Attorney General Steve Carter
39. U.S. Rep. John Hostettler
40. Michael Gerson
41. U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky
42. U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola
43. Bob Grand
44. Mike Fichter/Betty Cockrum
45. Allen County GOP Chairman Steve Shine
46. St. Joe County Democratic Chairman Butch Morgan
47. Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez
48. Marion County Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy
49. Tim Goeglein
50. Jack Colwell

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

The Weekly Briefing On Indiana



TICKER T A P E

knowledgeable, and motivated to make our team the best it can be. I'm excited to have Leslie in this role, as are my colleagues and our staff," said Bosma. "She will do an excellent job for the state of Indiana as Chief of Staff to House Republicans."

KERNANS SET TO MOVE BACK INTO GOVERNOR'S MANSION: Workers from Crown Moving and Storage will begin the process of moving Indiana's first family into the Governor's Residence, located at 4750 North Meridian Street. Beginning at 9 a.m. today, movers will unload items from Harrison House, which is located on the grounds of Fort Harrison State Park on Indianapolis' north-east side. Harrison House served as the home of Gov. and Mrs. O'Bannon during the renovations to the residence. The renovation project, which includes a one-story addition and adaptation to the existing structure, will ensure the areas of the residence that are used by the public are accessible to people with disabilities. It is funded completely by private donations, and is led by the Governor's Residence Commission, which is responsible for the renovation project.

